

The Churchman

Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church

250 Woodside Road, Riverside, Illinois 60546 * (708) 442-5250

"Faith Active in Love"

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We are called together by the Holy Spirit around Word and Sacraments to glorify God the Father, creator of all things, through our Lord Jesus Christ. We trust God to nurture lives of faith and hope, as we serve and give witness to the Gospel of Jesus Christ for the salvation of the world.

The Wilson's ELCA Sponsored Missionaries to Visit Sunday, August 4th with Outdoor Worship and Luncheon



Dr. Andrew and Rev. Dr. Sarah Hinlicky Wilson from Tokyo will visit the congregation on Sunday, August 4th during one of three outdoor worship services this summer and early autumn. The Wilson's are serving as teaching and pastoral ELCA missionaries in Japan and are one of two couples which the congregation sponsors. You are welcome to bring food to share at the potluck meal following worship that day.

Congratulations, Graduates!

Our congratulations to the following individuals on their accomplishments, and Godspeed to them for their future endeavors.

Lord God of our ancestors, we thank you for what you have done and will continue to do with our daughters and sons. Walk with them in life, and keep the evil one from obstructing their path. You see all; you know where the water is deep. Keep them from danger. Order their steps and guide their feet while they run the race of faith. May the good work that you have begun in them be brought to completion at the day of Jesus Christ. Amen.

Graduating on May 19th from York Community High School was **Jack Michael Bute**, son of Julie and Matt Bute, brother of Will, and grandson of Karyn Minarcin Bute. During his years at York, Jack played varsity volleyball and went to the state championship with the team. He was also inducted as a member of the National Honor Society. In the fall, Jack will be attending the University of Colorado at Boulder. Among his best friends, Jack includes "Harley" the family dog.

Bryan Galdun graduated *cum laude* on May 11th from the University of North Dakota with a Bachelor of Science degree in Air Traffic Management and a Music minor. His future plans include attending the Federal Aviation Administration Academy (FAA) in Oklahoma City during the winter and spring of the coming academic year and then seek placement at a location in the U.S. following his exams. Bryan is the son of John Galdun and the grandson of Emil and Helena Galdun.

Isabella Sylvia Myers graduated on May 26th from St. Olaf College, Northfield, Minnesota, with a Bachelor of Arts degree. During her years at St. Olaf, Isabella sang with the Cantorei, one of seven choral ensembles on campus which is "focused to lead worship and provide a distinctive musical and spiritual experience." Isabella is the daughter of Tom and Lavinia Myers, sister to Ben and Sebastian, and granddaughter of the late Dorothy "Dot" and Daniella.

On May 19th, **Bode Smith** graduated from Naperville Central High School. He will be attending the University of Nebraska–Lincoln in the fall, majoring in psychology and competing on the college track and field team with hurdles as a specialty. Bode is the son of Jennifer and Ben Smith, brother to Ben and Nicole, and the grandson of John and Shirley Kostelny.

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Claire Marie Watkiss graduated *magna cum laude* on May 10th from The University of Mississippi—Ole Miss with a Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Entrepreneurship and Minors in French and Journalism. Honors and awards include the Outstanding Undergraduate Entrepreneurship Student Award and Provost Scholar. Claire was also actively involved in *Square Magazine*, the fashion magazine at Ole Miss, during her four years. She was featured in the annually published print magazine and was a regular contributor to the online magazine. She is also a member of the Alpha Delta Chapter of the Phi Mu Sorority. Claire studied abroad during Spring Semester of her junior year at the Paris School of Business. Her future plans include traveling abroad for a month, staying in Chicago for the summer, and then moving to New York City in the fall to pursue a career in the fashion industry. Claire is the daughter of Paul and Carrie Watkiss, sister to Sara, and the granddaughter of Joan Watkiss and the late Ramona Suffern.

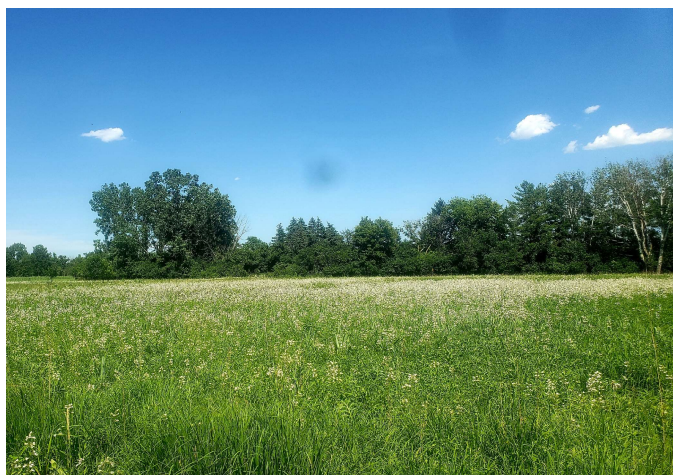
Ezekiel Zelaya “Zeke” Wilson, son of Andrew and Sarah Wilson, ELCA sponsored missionaries of the congregation in Tokyo, graduated from the Christian Academy in Japan on May 31st, receiving awards for his long and faithful participation in the school choir. This August he will begin his undergraduate studies at Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, which has also recognized him with a choir scholarship for his beautiful bass voice! The Wilson’s will be visiting us on Sunday, August 4th.

Also graduating from high school this year are **Aidan Altavilla**, son of Keith Altavilla and Rose Balk and grandson of Ingrid Altavilla and Philomena Balk; and **Hailey Greer**, daughter of Heather Greer and granddaughter of Elaine and Don Haase. Also, the Haase’s granddaughter **Shelby** became a college graduate this spring.

Outdoor Worship this Summer and Autumn

July 14th

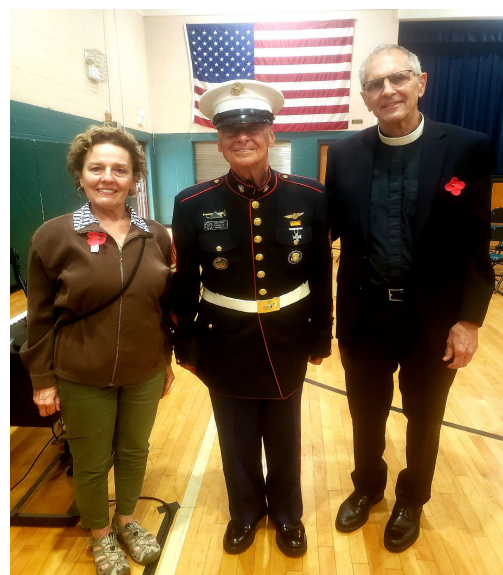
August 4th with Missionary Visit
and October 6th with Blessing of Animals
in Commemoration of St. Francis of Assisi,
renewer of the church, died 1226



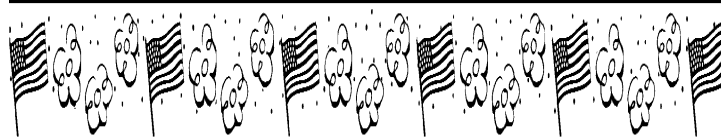
Wild flower meadows north of the Brookfield Zoo.

Riverside Memorial Day Program

May 27th, 2024



87-year-old Marine Trumpeter Tom Day performing Taps at the Riverside Memorial Day Program earlier this summer. Mr. Day is the founder and president of Buglers Across America which has performed Taps for over 10,000 military funerals. Shown here with Pastor Dennis and Jane. Above: Pastor Dennis offering the closing prayer.



Summer Solstice Reminds Us of God's Grace to All

Why it matters that the Lord lets the sun rise on both the evil and on the good. By Hannah Anderson (June 17th, 2022)

[On June 21st] the sun [hung] in the sky over the Northern Hemisphere for what is colloquially known as the “longest day of the year.” In reality, the sun’s position will be no different than usual, but our perception of it will be different owing to the earth’s tilt on its axis as it orbits the sun.

Where I live in the mid-Atlantic, we’ll enjoy over fourteen hours of sunlight, but for those at the farthest reaches north—in places like Svalbard, Norway—the sun will simply never set. (Folks in the Southern Hemisphere will enjoy the same phenomenon six months later when the seasons change.)

Traditionally, the summer solstice has been a time of celebration, bonfires, and revelry—inspiring stories like Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* and even the placement of architectural wonders like Stonehenge and the Great Pyramid of Giza.

For many pagan cultures, midsummer was a time of ritual and sacrifice as humans worshiped the sun as the source of life. But there’s a difference between worshiping the sun and worshiping by the sun. And surprisingly, at least to our modern sensibilities, Scripture invites us to the latter.

Psalm 19—the psalm that tells us that “the heavens declare the glory of God”—calls attention to the sun’s orbit as it traces a path across the sky. The author likens it to an athlete running around a racetrack:

*It rises at one end of the heavens
and makes its circuit to the other;
nothing is deprived of its warmth (v. 6).*

For the psalmist, the arc of the sun’s orbit (the same orbit that makes the summer solstice both possible and predictable) reveals something of God’s character. Elsewhere, the Scripture alludes to the role of the sun’s orbit in delineating “signs and seasons” (Gen. 1:14–19, NKJV)—while the consistent passage of the seasons tells of the faithfulness of God himself. As the Lord promises Noah after the flood,

*As long as the earth endures,
seedtime and harvest,
cold and heat,
summer and winter,
day and night
will never cease (Gen. 8:22).*

Finding theological truth in natural phenomena may feel odd to modern readers—and perhaps it might even smack of paganism—but this hermeneutic falls squarely within the tradition of natural theology or general revelation.

The natural world is one of the primary ways God has revealed himself to humanity since the beginning of time. And so, while we’re more accustomed to knowing God through holy texts and prophetic utterances, saints throughout history have found him through his creation.

In the early 13th-century hymn “Canticle of the Sun” (based on Psalm 104), Saint Francis of Assisi worships God via the greatness of the sun:

*Most High, all powerful, good Lord,
Yours are the praises, the glory, the honor,
and all blessing.
To You alone, Most High, do they belong,
and no man is worthy to mention Your name*

*Be praised, my Lord, through all your creatures,
especially through my lord Brother Sun,
who brings the day; and you give light through him.
And he is beautiful and radiant in all his splendor!
Of you, Most High, he bears the likeness.*

But general revelation also carries a kind of warning, reminding us of where we stand in relationship to our Creator. As much as we might minimize our helplessness or try to escape the uncomfortable truth of our dependence, the natural world has a way of snapping us back to reality.

When Job’s friends chide him for blaming God for his suffering, Job reminds them that even animals know their well-being rests in the hands of the Creator. “Ask the animals, and they will teach you, or the birds in the sky, and they will tell you; or speak to the earth, and it will teach you, or let the fish in the sea inform you. Which of all these does not know that the hand of the Lord has done this? In his hand is the life of every creature and the breath of all mankind” (Job 12:7–10).

We simply cannot escape the testimony of creation: We are dependent creatures whose only hope is in our Creator.

As we approach the summer solstice, our earth circling around a blazing mass of glory, I can’t help but think about how fragile our life on this planet is. Just the right tilt of the axis, just the right distance, just the right length of orbit—all sustained by the One who first set it in motion and maintains it in a continual act of creation.

In light of all this, I understand why people have worshiped the sun. I understand how easy it would be to see the sun itself as your source of life, to realize how dependent we are on its rays and respond accordingly. But our dependence is only half the story. The natural world—the sun specifically—also reveals the goodness and grace of the God on which we depend.

Returning to Psalm 19, David suggests that God’s glory is like the sun’s heat: “nothing is deprived of its warmth” (v. 6). God’s presence pervades every nook and cranny of the earth. It “goes out into all the earth ... to the ends of the world” (v. 4).

But even as God generously reveals himself as the source of our lives, he also shows himself to be generous—and this grace changes us.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus appeals to the sun’s orbit to teach a new ethic of the kingdom of heaven. As children of our Father, he says, we must love not only our neighbors but also our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. And we must do this because this is what our Father does.

Our Father “causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous” (Matt. 5:45). He doesn’t differentiate between those who deserve the warming rays of the sun and those who don’t; he extends the grace of life to all—even to those who resist or hate him.

When we feel the glow of the sun on our faces, when we feast under its lengthening rays, we remember that our lives are sustained by its warmth in very real and practical ways. The energy that shines from heaven allows plants to grow and sustains all those who call this earth home. That light falls on everyone—regardless of whether we love and worship the Creator or not—and it is the same light that instructs us in his ways.

When self-reliance and ingratitude tempt us to forget the source of life (Jer. 5:24), we pray that God’s kindness will, like the sun, continue to shine on us and lead us to repentance. We pray that we will be open to what this light teaches us and that we will be made more like our Father in heaven—a Father so rich and so kind that the rays of his love permeate the whole earth, so that nothing can be hidden from them.

Hannah Anderson is the author of Turning of Days, All That’s Good, and Humble Roots: How Humility Grounds and Nourishes Your Soul. Reprinted from Christianity Today.

DATED MATERIAL

May Recitals



Violin and piano students of Kristine Boike and Jane Lauritsen performed in recitals at Sts. Peter and Paul during the month of May.

A Graduate's Prayer

*Dear Lord,
As I look toward the future
Bright hope conducts this prayer,
For I know the plans You have for me
Were wrought with divine care.*

*Holy Spirit, lead me.
Let me run at Your command,
Yet be still and know that You are God
When trouble is close at hand.*

*Your Word will be a lamp for me,
A guide to light my way,
A solid place to set my feet,
A compass when I stray.*

*May I live my life to praise You,
Not for fortune, nor for fame,
May everything I say and do
Bring glory to Your name.*

*May my eyes stay fixed upon You
As I seek the way that's pure,
Tasting Your love and goodness
Sleeping and rising secure.*

*Planted by Your living streams
I'll delight in all Your ways,
Hidden by Your sheltering wings
With new mercies for each day.*

*Even in a dangerous land
When storms threaten to destroy,
At the cross I'll stand upon the Rock
My Strength, my Hope, my Joy.*

*Dear Lord, show me Your favor,
At all times keep me blessed,
May Your face ever shine upon me,
With peace and perfect rest.*

—Mary Fairchild

“Music has a great advantage: without mentioning anything, it can say everything.”

—Ilya Ehrenburg

JULY WORSHIP SERVERS

July 7th:

Greeter: Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: Charles Matthies
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

July 14th: (Outdoor Worship)

Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Kristine Boike
Comm. Ministers: Charles Matthies and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Fred Kuzel

July 21st:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: Tom Myers
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Rafael Martinez

July 28th:

Greeters: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Beverly Tarbox
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: George Valek

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel and John and Janet Broussard

AUGUST WORSHIP SERVERS

August 4th: (Outdoor Worship)

Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lector: Charles Matthies
Comm. Ministers: Tom Myers and Brandon Michaels
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: Walter Cudecki

August 11th:

Greeters: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Philip Painter
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher: John Kostelny

August 18th:

Greeters: Walter and Judith Cudecki
Assisting Minister: Brandon Michaels
Lector: George Valek
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: George Valek

August 25th:

Greeters: Edward and Joanne Sefara
Assisting Minister: John Broussard
Lectors: Paul and Carrie Watkiss
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Janet Broussard

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Edward and Joanne Sefara

SEPTEMBER WORSHIP SERVERS

September 1st:

Greeters: John and Shirley Kostelny
Assisting Minister: Charles Matthies
Lector: John Broussard
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: John Kostelny

September 8th:

Greeters: Larry Crachy and Karen Kubik
Assisting Minister: Tom Myers
Lector: Jane Lauritsen
Live Stream: Fred Kuzel
Usher:

September 15th:

Greeter: Ann Kmet
Assisting Minister: Vicki Michaels
Lector: Kristine Boike
Live Stream: John Broussard
Usher: Janet Broussard

September 22nd:

Greeter: Karyn Bute
Assisting Minister: Carrie Watkiss
Lectors: Gary and Jocelyn Drahos
Live Stream: Charles Matthies
Usher: Fred Kuzel

September 29th:

Greeter: Bettye Harden and Staci Harden
Assisting Minister: Beverly Tarbox
Lector: Fred Kuzel
Live Stream: Paul Watkiss
Usher: George Valek

Sacristan and Altar Care:

Fred Kuzel and Jane Lauritsen

Memorial Flowers

June 23rd: In loving memory of beloved mother +Arlene Gana+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Adrienne Gana, sister Audrey Bucz, and nephew Brian Bucz.

June 30th: In loving memory of dear wife +Lupe Martinez+ on the 8th anniversary of her passing on July 3rd by remembering husband Rafael.



Birthdays and Anniversaries

JULY

July 4: Carl Busch III	July 14: Janet Broussard
July 5: Joanne Sefara	July 17: John Kostelny
July 6: Karyn Bute	July 18: Timothy Dlhý
July 9: Lee Drahos	Megan Drahos
Robert Kubik	July 22: Elizabeth Cudecki
July 11: Hannah Decosola	July 26: Bode Smith
July 13: Amanda Meyers	July 30: Keith Altavilla

Anniversaries

July 7, 1979: John and Linda McShane
July 11, 2015: Thomas and Kathryn Murray
July 19, 1986: Dennis and Jane Lauritsen
July 20, 2019: David and Jessica Barajas
July 25, 1997: Timothy and Pamela Dlhý

AUGUST

Aug. 1: James D'Alexander	Aug. 18: Nicole Smith
Milton Podzamsky	Aug. 22: George Valek III
Aug. 5: Sofia Cobrda	Aug. 23: Garry Horak, Jr.
Aug. 7: Jenean Sawyer	Aug. 24: Adrienne Mikulka
Aug. 10: Kristine Boike	Aug. 25: Daniel Mikulka
George Hodul	Aug. 26: Carole Pollitz
Joe Ruiz	Aug. 28: Matthew G. Decosola
Bradley Ruska	Steven Deshazer
Aug. 12: Larry Crachy	Brandon Michaels
Aug. 13: Vlado Vercimak	Aug. 29: Matthew J. Decosola
Aug. 16: Adrienne Gana	
Daniel Tornil	

Anniversaries

August 13, 2022: Samuel and Gianna Lauritsen
August 15, 1997: Donald and Elaine Haase
August 27, 1994: Daniel and Adrienne Mikulka

Donations to Sts. Peter and Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church can now be made using the Zelle service from your bank. For some, this may provide a more convenient way to donate on a regular weekly basis as well as before or after an event or for a special occasion. This service should not charge you or the church a service fee, avoids the need for a paper check, and gets your donation to the church as quickly as possible. Other ways of donating continue to be gratefully received. Here are some easy steps to follow: Zelle is supported by most banking applications, rather than being a standalone app. You simply go to your online banking website or phone app, go to the Zelle interface, and add Sts. Peter and Paul as a recipient via our e-mail address: donations@stspeterandpaulriverside.org. From there, you may send any amount of money with a note as to what it is for. The money will automatically be accepted into our account. We will get a notification at that e-mail address that you done so. Thank you so much for your ongoing support.

A message for you from Touchstones

In the life of the Indian there is only one inevitable duty—the duty of prayer—the daily recognition of the Unseen and Eternal. He sees no need for setting apart one day in seven as a holy day, since to him all days are God's. — Ohiyesa (Charles Eastman), Santee Dakota

Some of our past troubles came from our naive arrogance. We failed to acknowledge anything beyond ourselves. Whatever was unseen or eternal remained invisible to us. We were skeptical, scientific, task-oriented, self-centered, unreflective. It's as if we'd been racing down a country highway at top speed, hardly tuned in to the rich vitality of life that surrounded us. When we stopped the car and explored the roadside, we could suddenly smell the grasses, hear birds singing, perhaps see a whole community in an anthill, or watch a darting squirrel.

Coming to believe in a Power greater than ourselves is not something we create on our own. It is largely a matter of shifting our attention, of being open to the spiritual. We don't need to force it. We need only be willing to quiet ourselves and notice. Ultimately, every moment is sacred.

Today, may I live from moment to moment.

Memorials and Honorariums

♣ For the Church ♣

Susan Hassel and Family, in memory of mother and grandmother +Anne Gavac+ on the 104th anniversary of her birth on July 1st.
In loving memory of beloved mother +Arlene Gana+ on the anniversary of her death by remembering daughter Adrienne Gana, sister Audrey Bucz, and nephew Brian Bucz.
The Mocek Walker Family, in memory of the late +John Mocek, Jr.+ on the 100th anniversary of his birth.
Karyn Bute, in celebration of grandson Jack Bute's high school graduation.
Karyn Bute, in memory of +Robert Kavicky+.
Mark and Liz Rouck

♣ In memory of Dolores +Dolly+ Krc ♣

John and Shirley Kostelny
Karyn Bute
Edward and Joanne Sefara
Martin and Ann Pennino

April 2024

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offerings

Budgeted Offering: \$2,615.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
4/7	\$1,370.00
4/14	\$1,285.00
4/21	\$ 940.00
4/28	\$3,090.00

May 2024

Current, Benevolence and Freewill Offerings

Budgeted Offering: \$2,615.00

<u>Date</u>	<u>Offering</u>
5/5	\$1,157.00
5/12	\$ 895.00
5/19	\$1,875.00
5/26	\$ 230.00